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NSC BRIEFING

26 February 1958

**NORTH AFRICA (Short)**

- I. Tunisian situation continues to deteriorate as Bourguiba suffers serious loss in popular support for not pressing for immediate Security Council action.
  - A. To recoup he now presses new "hard line" against France.
  - B. Fear widespread that France plans to reoccupy Tunisia.
    - 1. Pineau denied that France contemplates reconquest; French Chief of Staff declares it infeasible.
  - C. Right-wingers in Gaillard's cabinet--may abandon him during budget debate.
- II. Algerian situation also gloomy with:
  - A. Moslem determination not to commit themselves to French strengthened by renewed rebel action.
  - B. Arms for rebels presumably still arriving, but no recent reports.
- III. Moroccan government deeply concerned over popular agitation resulting from Spanish-French military operations.
  - A. French forces definitely involved in Saguia el Hamra action. Results apparently meager.
  - B. Attack in Rio de Oro <sup>anchury;</sup> ~~and that now begun.~~ *of fri operation continuing*
  - C. Appears likely French planes using bases in Morocco, but probably not US bases.
    - 1. Possible that US-made aircraft used. Rabat claims proof of this.
  - D. Agadir populace aroused, civil disturbances possible.
    - 1. Resentment may be directed in part against US bases and forces in Morocco.

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